



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

William R. Massey, Chairman

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 25, 2006

Ms. Monique Nguyen
California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

Subject: Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities, Sonoma Highway 1 Culvert Cleaning Project, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

File: CDOT - Sonoma Highway 1 Culvert Cleaning Project, Valley Ford, Sonoma County; WDID No. 1B06029WNSO

This letter provides notice that certain proposed activities are covered by the Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities (Waiver), which was adopted pursuant to California Water Code Section 13269 by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (Regional Water Board) in Resolution 2002-0080. On March 14, 2005, Ms. Monique Nguyen, on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (Applicant), applied for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements for dredge/fill activities associated with the Sonoma Highway 1 Culvert Cleaning Project and submitted a \$500.00 processing fee. On September 19, 2006 an additional \$258.00 was received. Information describing the proposed project was noticed for public comment for a 21-day period on the Regional Water Board's website. No comments were received.

Project Description: The Sonoma Highway 1 Culvert Cleaning Project (Project) consists of the removal of accumulated sediment and ruderal vegetation from five culvert outlets along the highway. Approximately seven cubic yards of accumulated sediment and debris will be removed from each of the culvert outlet areas at PM 0.82, 0.87, 0.97, and 1.00, where the culverts are either 18 inches or 24 inches in diameter. Approximately

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20 cubic yards will be removed from the outlet area at PM 1.13, where the culvert is a box size measuring six feet wide.

Work will be done using an excavator from the roadway, with no equipment being placed in the channels at anytime. All standard Caltrans Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used during the duration of the project to reduce erosion, reduce sediment transport, and protect water quality.

The Project will result in the temporary impact 0.06 acres of wetlands on the downstream side of the culverts due to the clearing activities. The project also includes the trimming and removal of vegetation around the culvert outlets.

Because the Project involves the discharge of waste that will affect Waters of the State, the Regional Water Board has regulatory jurisdiction under Water Code Section 13260.

Receiving Water: Estero Americano Hydrologic Area No. 115.30, Bodega Hydrologic Unit No. 115.00

Filled or
Excavated Area: Total Area Impacted: 0.06 acres of Waters of the State
Area Temporarily Impacted (Restored): 0.06 acres
Area Permanently Impacted (Not Restored): 0.00 acres

Federal Permit: Not Applicable

CEQA Compliance: The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project is categorically exempt under Class 15301 - existing facilities, pursuant to CEQA.

General Waiver
of Waste Discharge
Conditions:

The following is a partial listing highlighting selected standard provisions from Resolution 2002-0080:

1. "The Applicant shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region."
2. "The Applicant shall discharge only in accordance with the submitted Report of Waste Discharge or equivalent (i.e., the Application)."

3. "The Project shall not create a pollution, contamination, or a nuisance, as defined by California Water Code Section 13050."
4. "There shall be no discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by waivers in Resolution 2002-0080."
5. "The Applicant shall allow Regional Water Board staff reasonable access onto the affected property for the purpose of performing an inspection to determine compliance with waiver conditions."

Additional Waiver
of Waste Discharge
Conditions:

The following from Resolution 2002-0080 apply specifically to dredge and fill activities.

"The Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. Discharges shall be non-toxic, short-term, discharges to land.
2. The Project shall not result in a net loss of wetlands or beneficial uses.
3. This Notice of Coverage is valid only if operations are not being covered by General Waste Discharge Requirements."

Applicability of Waiver
of Waste Discharge
Requirements:

The proposed construction activity meets the eligibility criteria for the Waiver and, if constructed as described in the Application and in compliance with the above-listed conditions, the Project will adhere to applicable water quality standards. No monitoring and reporting program is required, as it is not in the public interest. Therefore, I have determined that the Project is covered by the Waiver.

Expiration:

This Notice of Coverage expires upon completion of the Project or on October 31, 2011, whichever occurs first.

Please be aware that a failure to implement the Project according to the Project Description and other information submitted in the application may result in the

revocation of this Notice of Coverage and the initiation of formal enforcement proceedings as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code.

Enclosed is a copy of the Waiver Policy for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities. Please notify Mona Dougherty of our staff at (707) 570-3761 before the Project begins so that we can answer any public inquiries about the work.

Sincerely,



Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Enclosure: Waiver Policy (Res. 2002-0080)

cc: Mr. Oscar Balaguer, SWRCB, 401 Program Manager